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nation by birds, its water parasitism, its essentially xerophytic structure, and the distortion which it causes in the branches of its host plants. The chief hosts in the vicinity of Austin, Texas, are the hackberry, elm, mesquite, and osage orange. The immunity of certain trees (as the China tree and box elder) appears to be due to the character of the external surface and the thickness of the corky layer.—H. C. COWLES.

Statolith theory.—NĚMEC[43] controverts PEKELHARING'S claim that roots respond to the geotropic stimulus after being freed from statolith starch by growing in 0.025 per cent potassium alum. Aside from potassium alum, NĚMEC used aluminum sulphate and chloride and zinc sulphate as destarching agents. In no case was geotropic response given in absence of statolith starch. With such treatments, marked injury always accompanied absence of starch. He believes that the statolith theory stands in the face of all suggested evidence against it.—WILLIAM CROCKER.

Cytology of Spongospora.[44]—In the current issue of the *Annals of Botany* two investigators present preliminary accounts of their investigations on *Spongospora*, the organism which causes the powdery or corky scab of the potato. Both describe the life history, both note that chromatin at certain stages takes the form of chromidia, and both note resemblances to *Plasmodiophora*, OSBORN suggesting that *Spongospora* should be placed in the Plasmodiophoraceae.—CHARLES J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Light perception.—HABERLANDT[45] answers Wager's arguments against the lens theory of light perception by foliage leaves. In places his answer shows keen retort, though it often lacks any convincing evidence. Such are the methods to which one must resort when one defends a questionable though favorite hypothesis.—WILLIAM CROCKER.

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[43] NĚMEC, B., Der Geotropismus entstärkter Wurzeln. Ber. Deutsch. Bot. Gesell. **28**:107–112. 1910.

[44] OSBORN, T. G. B., A preliminary note on the life history and cytology of *Spongospora subterranea* Wallroth. Annals of Botany **25**:271. 1911.

HORNE, A. S., Preliminary note on *Spongospora solani* Brunch. Annals of Botany **25**:272. 1911.

[45] HABERLANDT, G., H. WAGER'S Einwände gegen meine Theorie der Lichtperzeption in den Laubblätter. Jahrb. Wiss. Bot. **48**:337–390. 1910.